

REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner:

(1) objected to the drawings as being informal and indicated that formal drawings are required;

(2) rejected claim 19 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention;

(3) rejected claims 16 and 17 under 35 USC 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Malvin (US 3,849,654) ("Malvin");

(4) rejected claim 19 under 35 USC 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Puppels (WO 02/101365 A1) ("Puppels");

(5) allowed claims 1-15, 20 and 21 over the prior art of record; and

(6) objected to claim 18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Turning first to Item (5) above, Applicants thank the Examiner for her indication that claims 1-15, 20 and 21 are allowed.

In response to Item (1) above, Applicants have submitted formal drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84 and 1.121(d).

In response to Item (2) above, Applicants have amended claim 19 so that it more accurately reflects the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. More particularly, the term "second" in line 14 was changed to "first", as required by the Examiner.

In response to Item (3), Applicants have amended claim 16 in order to more clearly distinguish the present invention from the prior art.

Amended claim 16 now calls for a holder for a specimen of material comprising a vial with a top member, a bottom member and a wall member, wherein one of the top member, the bottom member and the wall member comprises a single crystalline material, and the others of the top member, the bottom and the wall member are formed out of a different material.

In contrast, the patent to Malvin discloses a cuvette for use in fluorimetry wherein each of the walls of the cuvette are fabricated from the same material. This is significantly different from the present invention, wherein one wall is comprised of a single crystalline material and the remaining walls are formed out of a different material.

Thus, claim 16 is believed to be allowable over the prior art and claims 17 and 18, which depend from claim 16, are believed to be allowable through dependency.

In response to Item (4) above, Applicants have amended claim 19 in order to more clearly distinguish the present invention from the prior art.

Amended claim 19 now calls for a method for producing a Raman signature display, the method comprising the steps of (i) operating a laser source to produce a laser beam, (ii) directing the laser beam through a crystalline light guide from a first end to a second end thereof and through a lens associated with the crystalline light guide, (iii) directing the laser beam further onto a selected specimen from which light projected thereonto is reflected back to the lens associated with the crystalline light guide, (iv) passing the reflected light back through the

crystalline light guide from the second end thereof to the first end thereof, (v) dividing the reflected light at the first end of the crystalline light guide into a Raman signature portion and a second portion comprising a reminder of the reflected light, (vi) directing the signature portion of the reflected light to an optical spectrum analyzer, and (vii) operating the analyzer to provide a signature display.

In contrast, Puppels discloses a spectrometer for measuring inelastically scattered light. The spectrometer includes a light source for generating light, a probe with a hollow capillary (light guide), an analysis unit and a coupling unit. The light guide is made of various different materials, including aluminum, gold, silver, plastic, etc., however, Puppels does not disclose a crystalline light guide. In contrast, the method of the present invention discloses directing the laser beam through a crystalline light guide. Thus, claim 19 is believed to be allowable.

In response to Item (6) above, Applicants have added new claim 22 which corresponds to dependent claim 18 and includes all of the limitations of the earlier base claim (i.e., claim 16).

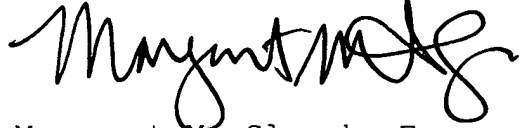
Further to the undersigned's discussion with the Examiner on January 23, 2006, Applicants have amended claim 20 so as to remove the word "means" after the terms "light guide" and "lens". Applicants have also amended "the light guide" to "a light guide" in line 11 of claim 20. These changes are believed to more accurately reflect the present invention.

Applicants believe that claims 1-22 are now in condition for allowance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

In the event that any fees may be required in this matter,
please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret M. Slezak', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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